WINTER 1980

OUR FOURFOOTED FRIENDS

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ON THE COVER: League Santa makes his annual visit to stables in the area to deliver the League's traditional Christmas Dinner for Horses. Joining in the holiday spirit is Mr. Bojangles, ARL's mascot.

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON

Publisher of
OUR FOURFOOTED FRIENDS

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from the president's desk

Health and Safety in the Horse Barn

As many of our friends and supporters are aware, our Inspectors make routine visits throughout the year to all types of livestock facilities, and in particular, horse stables. Most of these are commercial riding stables where horses are either boarded or kept for rental to riders and used for riding instruction.

We have had a long and abiding interest in the welfare and safety of horses as exemplified by our Christmas Dinner for Horses, which has been a tradition with the League since 1913. One of the benefits of the Christmas Dinners is the fact that our Inspectors visit many stables in a short span of time and have an opportunity to observe the general care and condition of these horses just prior to the onset of severe winter conditions. It is during the winter months that such horses are the least active and thus return the least financial compensation to the stable owners. It is important to be sure that food supplies and shelter are adequate for the long, cold months ahead. This is especially important since the general public is also least apt to visit stables during this time.

Even when food and shelter seem sufficient, another ever-present danger in the stables, large and small, is the risk of fire. Fires can be devasting with extensive loss of horses due to the short time to rescue them since stable fires progress to total destruction in a matter of minutes.

I would like to suggest to all of our friends who are involved in the operation of stables in anyway that now is an excellent time to inspect your barn from the point of view of fire safety and prevention. The old saying about an "ounce of prevention" was never more appropriate. We have seen in recent months the tragic results of major fires at race tracks and the risk is just as great, if not more so, in smaller stables.

This is such an important and timely subject that I hope you will take a few minutes to read an excellent article on this subject on page 4 of this issue which we are pleased to reprint with permission from Horse-Of-Course! magazine.

With an overriding theme of preventing cruelty and suffering for all animals, may I take the opportunity on behalf of our staff and Board of Directors to wish all of our friends the best of Holiday Greetings and a safe and successful New Year.

Arthur G. Slade
President

The Tragedy of Stable Fires

by Barbara Dimmick

Reprinted by permission from HORSE OF COURSE Magazine, Temple, New Hampshire 03084

In January, 1979, the striking American Saddlebred, Ebony Artist, graced the cover of Horse Of Course magazine. On July 14, 1979, Ebony Artist perished in a fire at Cedar Hill Farm in Milford, New Jersey.

The death of Doreen Weston's Saddlebred stallion, and the deaths of the majority of his stablemates, is a far more common loss that many horse owners, farm owners and stable managers would care to believe. In some ways, the fire at Cedar Hill was in unique variance with the grim norm of stable fire statistics, but in many other ways, the bitter truths of that day are shared and will be shared by the owners of thousands of other horses who have been or will be lost in barn fires.

Doreen Weston's Cedar Hill was a small but busy sixteen horse farm. Horses were stabled as boarders or were on the farm for training, showing and breeding, and some were the back-bone of an active teaching program. On the day of the fire, the usual summer Saturday hubbub had been quelled by a blinding rain that came down in sheets. Around 2:30 in the afternoon—an atypical hour for barn fires—the pole type horse barn suffered a direct hit of lightning, and in the few minutes it took Doreen Weston to race to the barn, it was already a nightmarish conflagration. "I couldn't even get in," she remembers with helpless frustration. "I burned my back and never even got close to a single horse." Despite the prompt response of the local fire company, and the pouring rain, fourteen of Cedar Hill's sixteen horsed were dead in minutes. A mare and her foal, turned out for the day, were the only survivors.

Months after the fire, the pain of remembering is more than evident in Doreen Weston's voice, and what is worse is the inevitability that countless others have suffered the same anguish in the past and many more will suffer it in the future. And in the pain and the loss, Doreen Weston's story becomes the story of nearly every other stable fire.

Figures on horse loss by fire in this country are conservatively inaccurate. Annual rural fire loss—including farms other than horse farms—exceeds 100 million dollars, and national figures on animal loss usually lump horses in with other types of livestock. More specifically attuned to horses, especially race horses, the Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association has, in the past sixteen years, recorded 270 stable fires with a total loss of 3,208 horses and 18 human lives. Yet this figure represents a mere fraction of the total. The same organization estimates that, by the end of this year there will have been 18 track fires—or one fire for every ten tracks. But that figure does not include commercial, competitive, teaching, boarding or breeding barns. Nor does it consider small private farms that will suffer their share of loss by fire.

Because the statistics of fire loss are grim even in their sketchy state, fire prevention should be of paramount interest to the horse owner, and in order to understand fire prevention, it is necessary to take a look at the causes of stable fires.

In general terms, horse barns fall under several categories of fire regulations. Since they house horses, barns are often classified as agricultural buildings. But nearly every horse barn also serves as a warehouse for the storage of grain, hay, bedding and other materials, and some assume another hazardous function as an apartment house when a groom, manager or other employee has living quarters in the same building.

Considering the complexity of a barn's use, the causes of stable fires are many and varied, and while stable fires are certainly not limited to the following origins, the National Fire Protection Association estimates that nine out of ten barn fires are caused by smoking and the improper use of heaters, electrical appliances and other equipment. In addition, surveys indicate that fire is most apt to break out in the hayloft or in a stall, followed in order by the tack room and living facilities in the same building.

More specifically, the misuse of electricity ranks high on the list of contributing factors because the deteriorating wiring found in many older barns is often overloaded with too many electrical demands or the circuitry built in new barns is inadequate to handle the drains of lighting and electrical appliances. Incorrectly matched fuses in the fuse box, amateur attempts at "do-it-yourself" electrical wiring, and the use of poor or unsafe extensions are all possible starting points of fires. Portable space heaters, whether electric or gas that are improperly placed or unsupervised are also high on the list of causes for barn fires.

The lack of properly grounded and adequate sized lightning rods also fall under the heading of

electrical failures. Many barn owners who would not leave their own homes unproteced in such a manner often fail to equip their barns with lightning rods, or neglect to see that the rods are of the proper size and sufficiently grounded. An ungrounded lightning rod can be more dangerous than not having lightning protection at all.

Another common cause of stable fires is spontaneous combustion in the hay loft. Hay or straw that is insufficiently cured—with more than thirty percent moisture content—can ferment to temperatures that might cause the loft to burst into flames. Well-cured grass materials—when stored under a leaking roof—can absorb enough moisture to cause the same process to begin.

And lastly, smoking is such a prevalent cause of barn fires that it has almost become an unheeded cliche. Hot tobacco ashes can touch off a fire in seconds when dropped in dry bedding or hay, or can smolder for days before breaking out into an uncontrolled flame.

Fires traditionally break out at night, a time of day when few, if any, people are in the barn. According to the NFPA, the incidence of fires gradually increases from noon until early evening, after which the probability recedes until after midnight. Most fires occur between 3 and 6 a.m.—when even the most alert owner or manager is asleep—and there are approximately twice as many fires between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. than between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Taking the varied causes of fires and the statistic average for ignition time into consideration, there are several approaches that can be combined in order to prevent fires. When building or remodeling a barn, fire retardant materials and lay-outs can be worked into the plans. There are alarm and sprinkler systems that can be installed. And, of course, stable management practices and personal conduct habits that will help forestall fires must be adopted and maintained, even in the most fire resistant of structures.

For anyone with the luxury of building a new barn or in the process of purchasing a farm, there are several alternative ideas to consider. The first is to house horses in several smaller barns, limiting the number of occupants to eight or twelve horses per unit. Depending on the direction and strength of the prevailing winds, these barns should have a good 40 foot clearance between them. Another suggestion is to locate the tack room, the groom or manager's quarters, and storage areas for the majority of hay, grain, and bedding away from the barns occupied by horses.

In the layout and construction of the barn, several building and refurbishing techniques will help retard fires or lessen their damages. The reasonable cost of frame construction makes it the optimum choice for the majority of barns, but the flammability of such construction can be minimized by the incorporation of building features and the use of fire retardant materials.

A barn that houses more than eight or twelve horses can be divided by fire stop walls that, if they extend above the roof, can slow the spread of the fire enough to buy rescue time for those horses stabled in sections of the barn away from the fire's origin. Doors leading to the outside from each stall will speed the rescue process. Tack rooms, offices, and living quarters should be sealed off from the actual stabling area by fire stop walls as well.

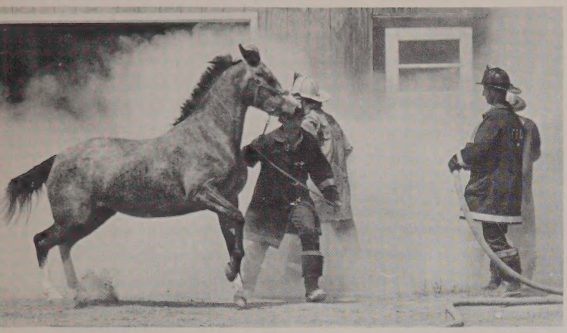
When building or remodeling a barn with second floor hay or bedding storage, the loft floor can be constructed in three layers in order to slow the spread of fires from one story to another. The bottom layer of the last floor should be joined as tightly as possible and then covered with a continuous layer of asbestos filling or asbestos sheets. The top layer should be as closely fitted as the bottom layer, and care should be taken that the seams of the top flooring overlap, and do not match, the seams of the first flooring. The spread of fires from loft to stabling or stabling to loft will be stymied even more efficiently if stairways and hatchways are closed with springloaded, self-closing doors that provide as airtight a seal as possible.

There are several general types of fire retardant materials that can be used for these and other fire retardant purposes. Gypsum board, wood fiber board impregnated with fire resistant chemicals, mineral asbestos board, and vermiculite plaster will retard the advance of fires. Fire retardant paints—which will require a reapplication every two or three years—are also available. All of these materials, which can be used judiciously to line individual stalls, ceilings and the like, will do nothing to save a horse in a burning stall, but they should increase the length of time available for the rescue of other horses in the barn.

A major consideration—for fighting a fire that has already broken out—is the farm's water supply. Modern day fire fighting techniques demand sufficient water and water pressure so that a fire can be overwhelmed quickly. For a farm near a fire company and on a hydrant line, this might not be a problem; but, according to USDA figures, the isolated or rural farm—away from hydrant lines and inaccessible to a fleet of water tankers—needs a water supply capable of providing 500 gallons per minute for two hours at adequate pressure in order to subdue a fire. That amounts to nearly 60,000 gallons of water. A paper by Elmer Jones, an Agricultural Engineer, states that, "...much of the rural fire loss that exists today is due to the **lack of water for fire fighting on the farmstead.**"

That is a totally unnecessary situation. Modern engineering makes the planning, construction and maintenance of a good water system relatively economical. The local fire company, along with the aid of agricultural engineers, are the best resources for planning a system that will meet the needs of a farm within a specific locale. The size

Stable Fire [cont.]



and type of construction of the barn, separations between buildings, prevailing winds, exposures, the value of the property and other factors need to be assessed in order to plan an economical and efficient system.

At the same time, the local fire chief should look at the lane or drive leading into the farm to determine if the area available for parking equipment and trucks is adequate. Fire fighting equipment is both heavy and large, and it requires a good roadbed and room to maneuver for optimum performance.

After constructing or refurbishing with fire prevention in mind, the stable owner should consider the installation of a system—or systems—that will be of aid in case a fire breaks out. Alarm systems—comprised of heat and/or smoke detectors—sprinkler systems, and extinguishers all have their advantages and disadvantages.

AgVance, Inc., a leader in agricultural fire alarm systems, suggests that any alarm system is trustworthy if it does not raise false alarms, is relatively immune to the damages of dust and dampness, and needs little maintenance.

An alarm system is generally comprised of a mechanism that detects fire through smoke or heat, and sets off an alarm outside the barn—in the owner's home or at the local fire company, preferably. In studies done by AgVance, and replicated at Cornell, ionization and photoelectron smoke detectors perpetrated many false alarms, while spot heat detectors, although efficient and trustworthy, were able to monitor only 100 square feet of stable area. "Line type" heat detection cables, and "rate-of-rise" heat detectors both were able to withstand dust and turned in reliable performances. "Rate-of-rise" detectors, able to cover 2,500 square feet, can monitor two and one-half times the area of smoke detectors.

The next step in an alarm system is the relay from detection to alarm. Mechanical relays, easily smothered by dust and tending to corrode in six to twelve months, were found to be unreliable. An enclosed solid state system relays the detection to the alarm system in a more reliable manner.

The alarms themselves should be loud and well-placed. The noise set off by the alarm should be raucous and absolutely unmistakeable. An alarm outside the barn that will spread the alert, an automatic trigger at the fire company, and an alarm in the owner's or manager's house is the most effective combination.

The insulation of an automatic sprinkler system in a horse barn is a somewhat controversial issue and probably is decided best by an expert who can judge the individual requirements of the barn. The heads of automatic sprinklers usually are covered with soft pieces of metal that will melt when heated. Sprinklers are activated, generally, two to three minutes after the fire's origin, but they do have the advantage of needing no human presence for their operation.

In actual practice, however, sprinkler systems often fail. A system will not function if someone has accidentally or intentionally turned off the water, or if there is insufficient pressure in the water system. Lack of maintenance and freezing temperatures will also stymie a sprinkler system. And lastly, many barn fires are just too big for a sprinkler system to contain, even for just a few minutes. Sprinkler systems may well be most helpful when used in conjunction with heat and smoke detection alarm systems.

Even the most carefully planned structure, wired with alarms and equipped with sprinklers, can catch fire if stable management practices are poor. A review of the causes discussed earlier will suggest fire prevention practices that should become a permanent part of daily management and routine maintenance.

Since electrical problems cause many stable fires, it is a good idea to reevaluate the existing wiring and electrical system anytime a significant new electrical load is to be added. Only correct sized fuses should be used in the fusebox itself. Light fixtures, switches and electrical outlets will be safer if they are kept clear of dust, cobwebs and debris. Contain all exposed lightbulbs in wire cages in order to protect the electrical system from the horses and the horses from the electrical system.

Portable space heaters are a temporary or an emergency means of generating heat. If an area is intended to be heated permanently, safe permanent heating fixtures are more appropriate. If temporary heaters are needed, place them on a level floor, keep them away from walls and clear of blankets and any other flammable materials. And don't leave them unattended. A portable space heater is not a clothes drier and should not be used to dry bandages, sheets or any other horse clothing.

Adequate lightning protection is vital. The best lightning rods bear the Master Label of the Underwriters' Lab, but even these are of little help if they are the wrong size, improperly placed, or

left ungrounded. In addition, wire fences—electrified and otherwise—should be grounded at the post nearest the building and the grounding wires need to be clearly visible and protected from bored and mischievous horses.

Spontanious combustion can be prevented by checking hay or straw before it is stored to be certain that is has been well-cured, and then rechecking it at regular intervals for the first six weeks after it's stored. If possible, store large amounts of feeds and bedding away from the stable area.

During the course of routine barn maintenance—especially during the winter months—carefully inspect the roofs of the barn for leaks that might contribute to the spontaneous ignition of the materials stored in the loft. At the same time, be alert for any signs of charring where chimneys pass through the roofs, walls, and floors.

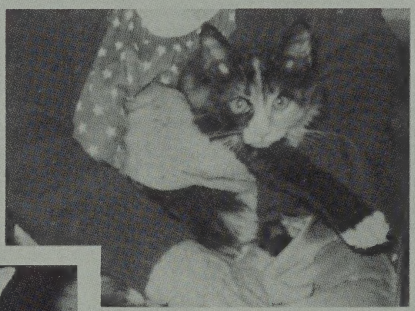
Smoking, as a major factor in stable fires, should be strictly controlled. No smoking signs should be posted and enforced, and smoking should be confined to areas such as the tack room, office or lounge. Ample ash trays or sand buckets, kept free of candy wrappers and other paper refuse, are extremely helpful.

Store fuels, such as gasoline and kerosene, paint thinners and any flammable liquids somewhere other than in the barn. If any of these are needed in the barn, keep only small quantities on hand. Along the same lines, use an electric flashlight or lantern instead of gasoline and kerosene lanterns during emergencies.

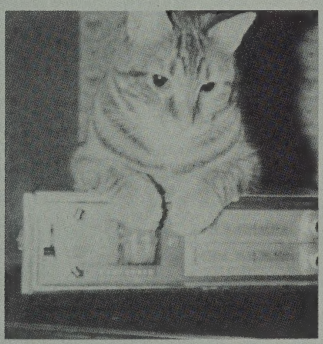
Fire prevention management continues outside the barn. Keep grass that grows near the barn cut and raked out throughout the year. Since manure piled against the barn is a possible site of spontaneous combustion, spread manure as soon as possible, or at least pile it away from the barn or

(cont. page 11)

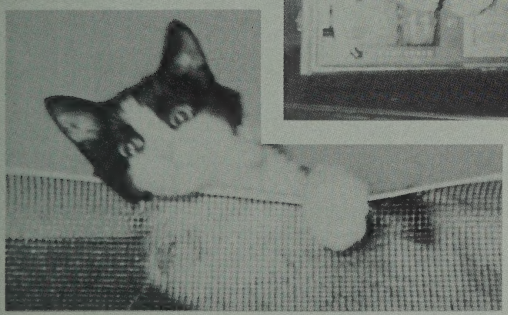
Pets in the Picture



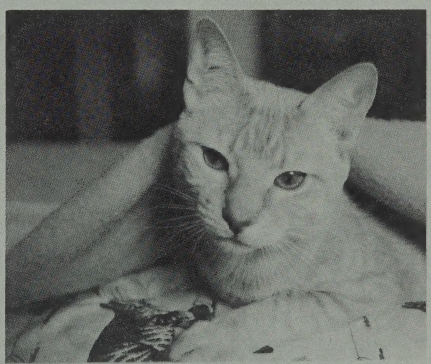
"Sarah Jane", or "Susie" as she is often called, is the friend and companion of 85-year-old Mrs. Mary Davis of West Roxbury. Her photo was submitted by Mrs. Davis' niece, Rita R. King of Malden, who writes: "A native of New Hampshire Sarah Jane arrived in this area as a kitten a couple of years ago and has been doing a good job ever since, keeping Mrs. Davis from being lonely."



Here's "Ladders," who's always "on time", according to owner Harold G. Robinson of Duxbury. "he is a five-year-old cat and great company year 'round," his proud owner writes.



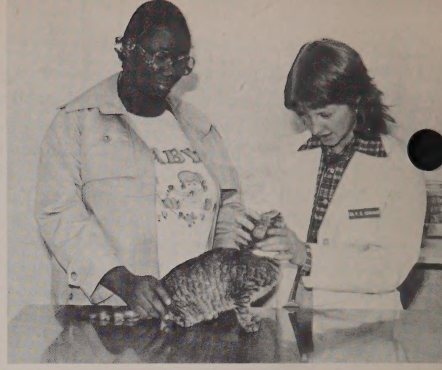
Obviously a real sport with more than his share of the competitive spirit is "Shaney" who lives in Newton Centre with Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Carver. His owners write: "Shaney loves to jump on the ping pong table and try to hit the ball with his paw whenever we play ping pong." Let's hope Shaney is better at hitting the ball than he is at jumping over the net!



Beverly and Bob Treannie of Marshfield invite readers to "meet 'Tigger', who is 1½ years old. He's a ham when it comes to having his picture taken by his master, a freelance photographer. He's a welcome addition to our household, and we love having him around."

New Look for Animal Clinic

A.



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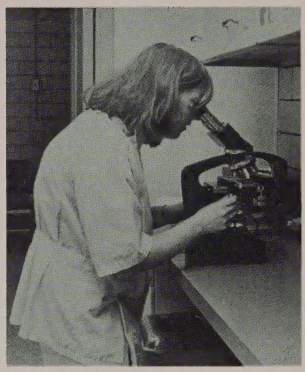
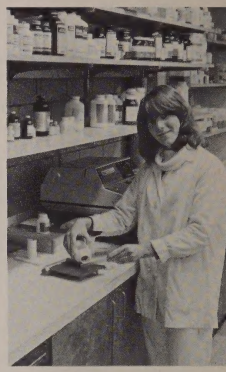




With the completion this fall of an extensive renovation and remodeling program, the League's clinic for small animals now has a brand new look. Added facilities for examination and treatment, more efficient use of space, new equipment, and a bright blue and white decor are the most obvious results of the remodeling program which was accomplished over a two-month period, from mid-August to mid-October.

While the 10,000 fourfooted patients cared for each year in the clinic are not likely to be impressed by appearances, the new facility will mean a lot to them in terms of quality and nature of services. Walls were torn down in some places and created in others, completely redesigning the area to create an additional examining room, a new sterile surgery facility, an expanded laboratory area and a new pharmacy, which through better organization of space provides more storage area for drugs and medication than before, though the total square footage is actually smaller.

"Throughout the entire renovation period, the clinic was closed for only two days," notes Dr. Edward A. Leonard, director of veterinary medicine. Elective surgeries were postponed, but routine health examinations and treatment were administered in a temporary clinic set up in the League's auditorium.

The new sterile surgery area, completely sealed off and equipped with a special air filter system to screen dirt and dust from the air, provides added protection for healthy animals who require surgery. Everything that enters this room is sterile, either prepacked in sterile, sealed containers or sterilized in one of the clinic's steam or gas sterilizing units. Adjacent to the sterile surgery area is a preparation room, which is used both to prepare animals for surgery or to operate on animals that are not sterile (as in the case of an infected wound, for example).

Across the corridor from the examining and surgery areas are an X-ray room with a darkroom adjacent, and a recovery room that can hold 23 animals. Recuperating pets are not kept there overnight, however; only until the effects of sedation have worn off and the veterinarians are satisfied that the animal's condition is stable.

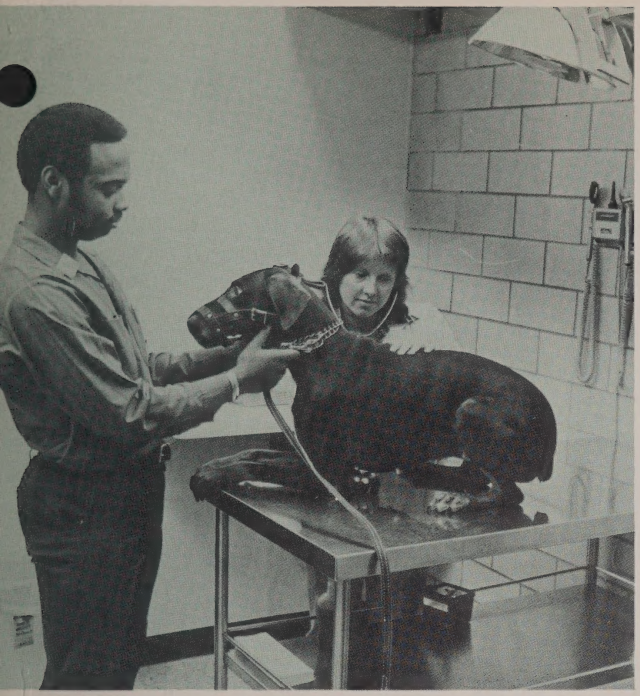
The expansion of the laboratory facility into two separate areas, for wet lab and dry lab work, now allows the staff to do bacterial cultures and other tests that mean faster and more accurate diagnosis and treatment for a sick animal.

With the new facility and equipment, the staff now can provide heartworm tests, urinalysis, packed cell volume studies (proportion of red cells to total blood volume), protein studies, bacterial cultures to analyze skin, throat and urine infections, and fungal cultures to detect ringworm. "Ringworm, incidentally, is not a worm and it's not shaped like a ring," Dr. Leonard points out. Ringworm is a fungus, a vegetable cell that lives on skin and hair and can cause serious infections. "In the near future, we also plan to begin doing complete blood counts for animals," Dr. Leonard adds. "The primary importance of these new laboratory capabilities is that they increase our ability to determine very quickly whether a sick animal needs to be hospitalized or can be treated by medication."

The staff of the clinic consists of three full-time veterinarians, two veterinary technicians, a kennel attendant, and a receptionist. From Monday through Friday, between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., they provide health care for sick or injured stray animals, examinations for animals given up for adoption, and medical attention at a convenient location for pets owned by residents of the League's neighboring communities, especially the South End, Back Bay, Dorchester and Roxbury.

Animals that are old enough are spayed or neutered at the League before being offered for adoption, to avoid adding to the pet overpopulation problem. Animals that are to be placed in homes also receive a thorough medical examination which includes temperature, pulse and weight check, respiratory check-up, tests for

D.



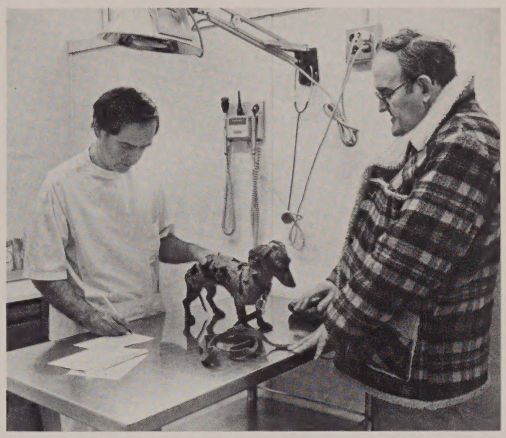
A. Dr. Faye E. Sorhage examines one of the many feline visitors to the clinic for small animals.

B.& C. Veterinary technicians Tina Wood [left], conducting tests in the new laboratory area, and Pat O'Connor [right] preparing medications in the renovated pharmacy.

D. Kennel attendant Yancy Banks has a reassuring word for a nervous patient being examined by Dr. Sorhage.

E. Dr. Edward Leonard performs an operation in the new sterile surgery unit.

F. Dr. Thomas Barrett assures a pet owner that his pup will soon be feeling fine.



F.

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parasites, and vaccinations against the standard viral diseases. Animals not considered suitable for adoption are those with major congenital defects, infectious diseases that are not readily treatable, or serious behavioral problems. "An injured stray which, can be treated and cured, can be eventually placed in a home where it will make an excellent pet," Dr. Leonard explains.

The new clinic has the capacity to care for between 40 and 50 outpatients a day, and twelve surgical cases. The busiest period is after holidays and weekends, when the animals brought into the shelter on Saturday and Sunday must be examined, in addition to the regularly scheduled outpatient pets.

Even though the newly remodeled waiting room has fewer seats than before, patient flow is smoother and crowding is diminished due to both the addition of the new examining room and surgery area, and the establishment of a new appointment system. Technicians are able to begin the preparatory workup on an animal in one examining room, while the veterinarian is working in another. Pet owners who bring their animals in for outpatient care are now required to make an appointment in advance, except in the case of emergencies. And even in emergencies, they are asked to telephone before coming in, so that the possibility of an unnecessary, health-threatening wait is eliminated.

1980 Annual Fair

Stable Fire [cont.]

other buildings. Any refuse should be burned far enough away from the barn so that flying sparks will not pose a hazard.

In even the best run barns, fires can break out, and it is vital to understand the course of a fire and the most efficient action that can be taken.

It is estimated that horses can only be rescued during the first four to ten minutes of a fire. After twelve minutes, there is little hope of saving horses—they will have already succumbed to smoke inhalation and seared lungs. Fire detection, notification of the fire department, and evacuation must therefore, be efficient and methodical. That calls for planning.

Whether by a witness or an alarm system, the fire must be detected within minutes of its origin if there is to be any chance of saving horses. Even if the alarm system has an automatic trip at the local fire company, the very first action should be to call for help. Every person who frequents the farm should be aware of the location of phones and the alarm box, and the fire company's phone number should be posted prominently at all telephones. The fire department offers the primary hope of saving the barn, **but they cannot save a barn that has been burning uncontrolled for more than a few minutes.**

After the fire company has been summoned, implement the evacuation plan. In order to make optimum use of the estimated twelve minutes, it is necessary to have a clear plan of evacuation. Every member of the family or staff should be familiar with the plan, and regular drills or reviews should be held. Only calm methodical action will save horses.

For ease in evacuation, horses should be stabled in halters. Breakable halters, properly fitted, should cause few problems, and horses that are prone to rub marks can have their halters covered with a soft fleece material. In order to lead horses past the frightening sights of a fire, it is often necessary to blindfold the horse before it is lead out of its stall.

Stall doors, even those on stalls inhabited by equine escape artists, should never be locked and stable exits should be kept clear. Horses closest to the fire should be rescued first, and all horses should be led toward exits away from the fire in order to keep traffic flowing smoothly in the aisle. Once the horses are out of the barn, they should be turned out in a paddock or pasture. Horses that are mildly incompatible should be left to settle their disputes—kick wounds and pasture bites are far more preferable to loss of life. And because of the danger of the fire spreading, all stock should be moved out of any other buildings on the premises as soon as the burning barn has been either evacuated or abandoned.

The prospect of losing horses, a barn, or an entire business to fire is grim indeed, and as a result, many horse or barn owners shy away from thinking about fires—or fire prevention—at all. Dennis Murphy, a Pennsylvania Extension Safety Specialist, remarks, "I think many, if not most, of the barns and horses lost in fires are unnecessary. The hardware and the know-how to prevent stable fires presently exists. It is a matter of convincing horsemen that it is in their best interest to actively pursue fire prevention techniques **before** a fire hits their barn."

Total destruction by fire is awful to contemplate—the worst thing that can happen in a horse barn.

Just ask Doreen Weston.

In Memoriam

The officers, directors and staff of the Animal Rescue League of Boston mourn the death, on September 17, of Florence E. Buttrick, and extend their heartfelt sympathy to her husband, Dr. Carlton E. Buttrick, past president of the League, and the other members of her family.

A Life Member of the Animal Rescue League of Boston, Mrs. Buttrick was a member of the League's annual fair committees, taught and participated in humane programs for young people at the League's Animal Friends Summer School in Cataumet, and with her husband was involved in animal welfare activities and programs both nationally and internationally.

Mrs. Buttrick was a graduate of Washington State and attended Yale University. She was a teacher in the Parkman, Maine school system for several years, and also taught in schools in Connecticut and New York. From 1967-1969, Mrs. Buttrick served as president of the Needlework Guild of America, and she was a director of the Dedham Visiting Nurse Association from 1975-1977. Past-president of the women's auxiliary of St. Paul's Church in Dedham, and a member of the Dedham Historical Society, Mrs. Buttrick is listed in the 1972 edition of 2000 Women of Achievement and Who's Who of American Women.

Born in Greenfield, Mrs. Buttrick lived for many years in Dedham and most recently resided at Amrita Island on Cape Cod, where the Buttrick family has summered since 1949.

The Florence E. Buttrick Memorial Fund has been established in Mrs. Buttrick's memory to create an annual award of excellence for a teacher at the Animal Friends Summer School. Contributions to this Fund may be sent to: Animal Friends Summer School c/o Animal Rescue League of Boston, P.O. Box 265, Boston, Mass. 02117.

Pet Care Corner

'Tis the Season to be Safety-Minded

by Edward A. Leonard, D.V.M.

Ornaments, ribbons, holiday plants, rich food—all of the things that make the holidays a happy season for people can make it a hazardous one for pets.

With a little common sense and care, pet owners can see that the holidays, and the whole winter season, are a safe, healthy time for the entire household. When you're decking the halls with shiny decorations and holiday plants, remember that what appeals to your eye is likely to appeal to your pet's appetite. Whenever possible, hang mistletoe, evergreen garlands, wreaths and other decorations up high where the dog or cat can't reach them. Common household plants that are poisonous to pets include pointsettia, mistletoe, holly leaves and berries, Christmas roses and even the popular philodendron.

Unless someone is present to keep a watchful eye on them, fourfooted family members should be kept out of the room where the Christmas tree is located, by closing the door or using a child guard gate. Broken ornament pieces, when eaten, can perforate the intestine; tinsel, ribbon and cord can cause intestinal blockage if swallowed. Dangling electric cords from tree or window lights are another source of danger, as is artificial snow which is poisonous.

Resist the temptation to share your holiday dinner with your pet. Rich, tasty foods may be very appetizing and eagerly accepted by your cat or dog, but often their digestive systems can not handle such foods. The upset stomach or loose bowel that may result are usually not worth the eagerly eaten table foods. Instead, plan ahead to purchase a supply of a favorite premium pet food they like so their holiday dinner will be something that likes them as well as they like it.

The holiday season also signals the start of the long New England winter, with heavy snowfalls, blustering winds and freezing temperatures. A few simple precautions will keep your pet safe and healthy outdoors, as well as indoors. Never allow a dog or cat outdoors unsupervised during a heavy snow storm, even in your own backyard. Also, be sure your pet is wearing proper identification tags at all times so that, should it get lost in a storm, it can be readily identified and returned to you.

Very young animals or older pets can benefit from the protection of a coat or sweater on cold days. An old towel hung by the door is handy for rubdowns on rainy and snowy days. Be sure to check your pet's paws after a walk—deposits of rock salt or sand can become imbedded in the paw causing a great deal of pain and discomfort. You can also help prevent this by applying a thin coat of protective petroleum jelly to the paws before outdoor jaunts.

Another cold weather hazard is spilled antifreeze, which is highly appetizing to dogs and cats but causes kidney damage, convulsions, coma and often death when injested. Use extra caution when draining old antifreeze from your car or adding a new supply, and be sure to wipe up any spillage immediately.

When your dog or cat comes indoors from a storm, try to discourage it from curling up in front of a heat vent or radiator to dry off. The direct heat will cause dry skin problems and excessive shedding.

No animal that is accustomed to the warmth and comfort of indoor living should be left outdoors in cold or inclement weather for any significant length of time. Throughout the winter, make a habit of checking frequently on your pet's whereabouts, rather than simply assuming that another member of the family has let the dog or cat in at the appropriate time.

Pet Care Corner is a regular biweekly column written by the League's director of veterinary medicine and provided as a public service to newspapers throughout Massachusetts. Watch your local paper for Dr. Leonard's advice on animal health care, training and pet related problems.

animal rescue league NEWSFRONT

NEW SAFEGUARDS SET FOR ANIMAL ACTORS

Animal welfare efforts to protect animal actors in the film and television industries from cruel and abusive treatment in the name of entertainment are finally having some effect. Now that the contract dispute between the Screen Actors' Guild and the producers is settled, it is mandatory for film companies to submit the portions of their scripts which contain animal action to the American Humane Association for review, and allow an A.H.A. representative on the set when scenes containing animals are filmed. Carmelita Pope, director of American Humane's Hollywood office, hailed the agreement as "an important victory for all of us who believe that the lives and well-being of animals are more important than expediting the production of a motion picture.

DEER LOOKS LIKE A WINNER IN ILLINOIS POLL

School children in Illinois are currently voting for an official state animal and the white-tailed deer was the projected winner from early poll returns, according to an Associated Press story. The deer had the lead despite a write-in campaign for the skunk led by 48-year-old Bill Stanton who drives a "skunkmobile" with a public address system heralding his Poll-Cat party. "This time of year the little kids are thinking about Santa's reindeer and this has influenced the vote. I think it's unfair," said Stanton. The deer's closest challenger in the election race was the raccoon.

LEAGUE PRESENTS AWARD TO MARSHFIELD TEACHER

The League this fall presented its Certificate of Appreciation to Karen Quackenbush, a teacher at the Grace E. Ryder School in Marshfield, Massachusetts. The certificate was given for "her concern and effort in rescuing the school's pet rabbit, "Felix", in a life-threatening situation on September 8, 1980." The school was evacuated that day when a break in a gas line created the threat of a gas explosion. When it was discovered that the students' pet rabbit had been left inside, the courageous teacher reentered the building, risking her own life to rescue the rabbit.

CAN PIGEONS PREDICT EARTHQUAKES?

Pigeons may be able to sense when an earthquake is coming, according to Dr. Melvin Kreithen who found in studies at Cornell University that pigeons can see ultraviolet light, can detect polarized light and can hear what is called infrasound, or very low frequency sound. This work with infrasound led Dr. Kreithen to suspect that pigeons might be able to detect even lower frequency vibrations. Experiments with an earthquake simulator showed that the birds can, in fact, detect very low airborne vibrations. Earthquakes make both vibrations and low frequency sounds and, according to Dr. Kreithen, pigeons can hear an earthquake before feeling it, without having to be on the ground. It is thought that some fault systems produce very low frequency sounds before a major quake occurs. Investigators at Stanford Research Institute in California are also conducting studies to determine whether the behavior of animals as well as birds is predictive of quakes.

NEWSFRONT

RED ACRE FARM TO OFFER HEARING EAR DOG PROGRAM

Red Acre Farm in Stow, Massachusetts has announced plans to establish a Hearing Ear Dog Training Center, a satellite program of the American Humane Association. Scheduled to open in Spring of 1981, the Center will train dogs to aid the hearing impaired population of the six New England states and New York. League president Arthur G. Slade has been appointed as a member of the advisory board for the program, and Dr. Carlton E. Buttrick, past president of the League, is a member of Red Acre Farm's board of directors. The League will also participate in the program by providing free consultation and veterinary care and, through their shelter program, providing dogs suitable for training.

Developed by the American Humane Association, the hearing ear dog program trains dogs to assist those with hearing impairment much in the way that seeing eye dogs have long assisted those with visual impairment. The dogs are trained to respond to sounds and alert their owners to warning signals like smoke alarms or to telephones, alarm clocks or ringing doorbells. Anyone interested in participating in the program, or helping to support it, should contact: Mrs. Carolyn G. Bird, executive director, Red Acre Farm, Inc., Red Acre Road, Stow, Massachusetts 01775.

ANIMAL WELFARE GROUPS ADOPT MODEL DOG AND CAT CONTROL ORDINANCE

Four organizations concerned with the welfare of pets have adopted a Model Dog and Cat Control Ordinance to provide municipal authorities, dog and cat control agencies, humane societies, and others concerned with animal welfare with the "basic elements of an effective dog and cat control program." The ordinance is intended to be a guide for "the thousands of municipalities and counties in the United States trying to handle one of the most frustrating problems of local government with archaic laws and inefficient, and often inhumane, dog and cat control measures," according to the sponsoring organizations.

The Model Dog and Cat Control Ordinance provides definitions of terms, licensing and vaccination recommendations, permit and licensing regulations, owner responsibility suggestions, impoundment and redemption provisions, adoption suggestions and some penalties.

For additional information or copies of the ordinance, contact any of the sponsors: American Humane Assoc., American Veterinary Medical Assoc., The Humane Society of U.S., and the Pet Food Institute.

MOVING?

Please let us know now if you're planning to move so we can be sure that you receive **Our Fourfooted Friends** without interruption.

Old Address:

Name .....
Street .....
City..... State..... Zip.....

(please print or attach mailing label)

New Address:

Name .....
Street.....
City..... State..... Zip.....

Note: Please indicate if change is only temporary - a summer or winter vacation address, for example.

"I suppose you're wondering, 'Why is the cat here?'"

if you're fond of animals...

The League continues to rely on the generosity of its friends to meet the ever-expanding needs of our animal population. The cruel realism of inflation makes the League's task in providing needed services more difficult than ever, but with continued support, the challenge can and will be met.

In making a bequest to the League in your Will, please remember that the corporate title of our society is "Animal Rescue League of Boston", that it was incorporated in 1899, and has no connection with any other similar society.

Form of Bequest:

I give to the Animal Rescue League of Boston the sum of_____dollars. The League's address is: 10 Chandler Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116.

1981
Pocket Appointment Calendar

Available in light blue vinyl with white imprint of the League's logo, this attractive pocket calendar measures 6½ x 6" opened flat; 3½ x 6¼" when folded for convenient carrying in pocket or purse.

With a full page for each month, room for notes and complete calendars for the past year and the coming one, the pocket calendar is an attractive and useful gift for friends, or for yourself.

At only $2.00 each, why not order several? Every purchase will help the work of the League.

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON
P.O. Box 265
Boston, Mass. 02117

Please send me:

_____ Pocket Appointment Calendars at $2.00 each. $_____

Plus 5% Mass. Sales Tax (.10 per calendar) _____

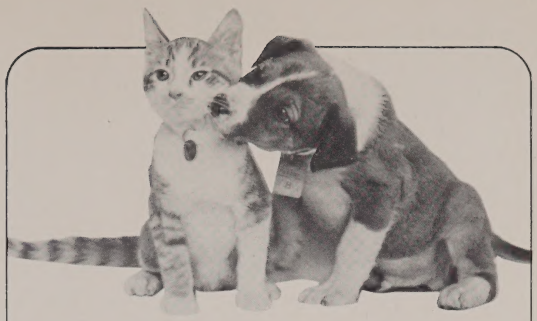
Total $_____

Name_____

Street_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Please make check or money order payable to Animal Rescue League of Boston. To avoid risk of loss or disappointment, please do not send cash through the mail.



Membership in the A.R.L. makes a nice gift for someone special

Please send a gift membership in the Animal Rescue League of Boston for the class of membership checked below. (dues are enclosed):

- ☐ **Benefactor, $1,000.00**
- ☐ **Patron, $500.00 annually**
- ☐ **Contributing, $100.00 annually**
- ☐ **Supporting, $50.00 annually**
- ☐ **Active, $25.00 annually**
- ☐ **Associate, $10.00 annually**
- ☐ **Donor, Any amount**

To:
Name_____
Address_____
City_____
State_____
Zip_____

Your Name and Address:
Name_____
Address_____
City_____
State_____
Zip_____

Please mail your magazine, Our Four footed Friends, to the address given above. ($2 of membership fee covers a year's subscription).

Animal Rescue League of Boston
P. O. Box 265, Boston, Massachusetts 02117

"THE TALKING DOG"

"Give me a place in your heart, little girl"
are the words he might have said
When he looked at her with those big brown eyes
and wagged his tail instead.
"Let me know what it's like to have a home
with a faithful friend so true;
to romp and play til the end of day
with a cute little girl like you."

"Oh give me a chance in life," he said
"Let me know its woe and joy"
as he barked a sweet melodious song
at the sight of a little boy.

"Together we'll roam through the woods one day"
"We'll run! We'll jump! We'll play!"
"Together we'll learn what life is about -
at the dawn of each new day."

"Let me feel the warmth of your tender hand,"
he arfed, as he raised a paw,
to the lovely lady who glanced his way
and left him filled with awe.

But she passed him by as the others did
and he felt so all alone
How his heart did ache; it would surely break
because he had no home.

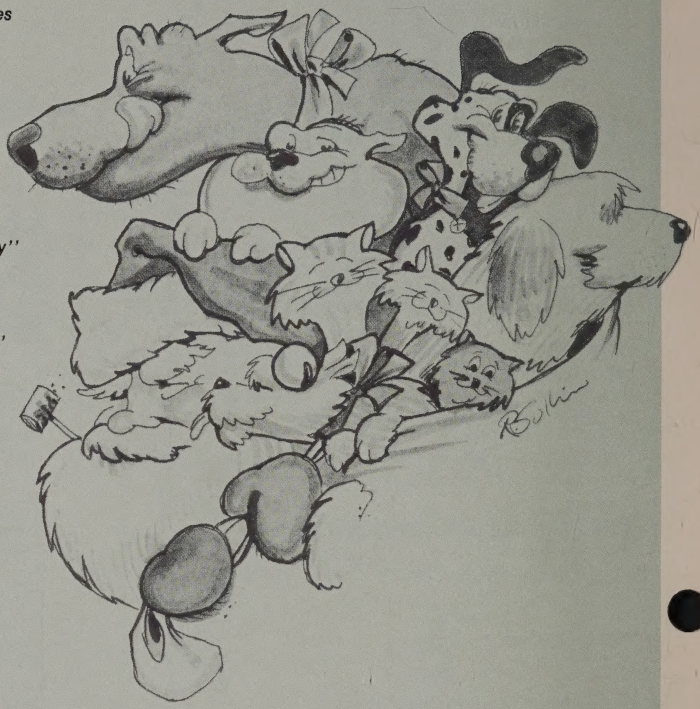
Then a funny old man with whiskers white
stopped by his cage and grinned
A jollier fellow he'd never seen
At last, he found a friend.

And as he licked Ole Santa's hand
you can bet your life he said,
"Thanks for sharing your Christmas love,"
by wagging his tail instead.

Now high upon Santa's pack he stands
so proud, so warm and true
He does not need to be wound up
as some toys often do.

He does not need any batteries
to make him talk for you;
He only needs your love, my friend,
and he will love you too.

by Cleo G. Barden, 1979



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